Freeship for students

KARACHI, Dec 31: The Government of Sindh in pursuance of National Education Policy has ordered ten per cent compulsory (freeship tuition and admission) to the talented students belonging to the low income group in all privately-managed educational institutions with immediate effect.

The management of private educational institutions have also been directed to submit the list of the candidates admitted by the institutions to the department of education, government of Sindh. — PPI

SSUET course

KARACHI, Dec 31: Sir Syed University of Engineering & Technology (SSUET) is holding a 20-hour course on "Advanced Materials for concrete Structures," from Dec 31 to Jan 7.— PPI

REFLECTION

MISFORTUNES HAVE A FINAL OUTCOME IN WHICH THEY COME TO AN END, AND THE WAY TO DEAL WITH IT IS TO BE PATIENT. — HAZRAT ALI (A.S.).
(7040-S)

ENGAGEMENT

ROTARY Club of Karachi Crown Iftar meeting on 3rd instead of 1st Jan at the residence of Chaudhary Mehboob Ali. (L-23625)

EXHIBITION

EXHIBITION: Latest Indian variety hand painted, chiffons, silks. Gents wear, Chinese Pearls, Jewellery, bed-sheets. 31–1st Pearl Continental. (W-24826)

Over 650 killed in Karachi violence

By Sarafraz Ahmed

KARACHI, Dec 31: Over 650 people were killed in political and sectarian violence during 1998 and the last quarter of the year saw the imposition of governor's rule in Sindh in which (Nov-Dec) the number of murders significantly ebbed at least in Karachi.

Those who were killed during the year included 126 activists of Muttahida Qaumi Movement, 67 of MQM-Haqiqi, 11 in sectarian violence, 39 police personnel, two rangers, two army jawans, seven PPP workers, and six workers of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League. The remaining 404 people were common citizens killed in politically-related violence.

Murders shot up in the year under review to over 965 from 689 in 1997. However, there was a slight decrease in the attempt to murder cases which declined to 638 from 647. The number of people killed in June, July and Oct was over 100 each and in Nov, Dec and February the figures stood at 37, 49 and 53, respectively.

Sixty-two of these murders were committed in January, 71 in March, 67 in April, 93 in May, 91 in August and 94 in September.

The last quarter of the year stood out for the efficiency of law enforcement agencies. According to the police, at least 56 high-profile cases were detected and scores of suspects involved in those cases had been apprehended.

The high-profile cases included that of Hakim Said, whose assassination proved to be the turning point in the political-administrative setup of the province, giving way for the imposition of governor's rule, followed by the setting up of military courts.

These military courts have so far announced judgments in five cases and the first conviction of death penalty was carried out on the last day of the year at Karachi Central Jail.

The other high-profile cases that have been detected by the police included those of the killing of KESC chief Shahid Hamid, Takbeer editor Salahuddin, MQM leader Azim Ahmed Tariq, secondary board chairman Ismail Memon, ex-MNA Zuhair Akram Nadeem, SDM-Khushk, PDSP Shamim, Sunni Tehrik leader Waheed Qadri, US drug enforcement agency man Shahnawaz Toor, DSP Farrukh Sultana, five relatives of SP Khwaja Nisar, and councillor Zaheeruddin Babar.

Most of the suspects involved in these cases, according to police, belong to the Muttahida Qaumi Movement.

The police claimed that around 1050 suspects had been arrested since the imposition of governor's rule, in addition to hundreds of others who had been picked up but later let off amid reports that police in various cases had extorted heavy bribes for their release.

The number of those belonging to Muttahida is 296, 90 are from Haqiqi and the rest from other groups. The MQM's maintains that Urdu-speaking people had been made target of harassment all over the country as they are segregated for checking at bus stops, railway stations and airports.

The MQM activists had been hauled up not only in Karachi, but in other parts of the country as well. They included five MQM activists who were taken into custody in Bajaur Agency and some others apprehended at Karachi airport. Those arrested at the airport included MQM activist Saulat Mirza, allegedly involved in the murder of scores of people.

The others from the MQM arrested include MPAs Shoaib Bokhari and Wakeel Jamali, who were taken into custody at the MQM's MPA Hostel from where, the police claims, arms were recovered.

Since the imposition of governor's rule, a good quantity of illicit arms and ammunition was recovered, according to police. The list of arms and ammunition seized till Dec 27 comprises two LMGs, 78 KKs, 65 rifles, 515 pistols, 69 revolvers, 12 shot-guns, 27 mousers, 17 hand-grenades, two rocket launchers, one booster and four rockets.

In August the city witnessed a three-day strike called by Muttahida Qaumi Movement to protest against the killing of its sector-in-charge of Gulshan-i-Iqbal. The main feature of the protest was the burning of around 70 vehicles in various parts of the city. Besides, on various occasions throughout the year, vehicles were set ablaze on the protest calls by various political and sectarian parties.

As far as Hakim Said's case is concerned, the police have arrested at least 10 suspects from among 22 who, according to the authorities, had been directly or indirectly involved in the murder of the former Sindh governor.

A wave of gloom pervaded the entire country following the murder of Hakim Said. It was first time in the history of the country that prime minister on the basis of preliminary investigations carried out by police and other agencies held the PML coalition partners MQM's men responsible for the murder at a press conference.

At least two suspects in the case died in police custody. They were MQM activist Fasih Ahmed, who died because of injuries he suffered during interrogation, and Mubashir Ali, a recruiting agent. The police have claimed that the latter suspect died of heart attack while the medico-legal department of the hospital concerned has reserved cause of death until it has received the chemical examination report.

The Hakim Said case is now being finalised by the police before it is sent to military court for trial. The police have so far recommended 40 cases for trial by the military courts.

According to police the Hakim Said case was taking time because some prime suspects in the case such as MPA Zulfikar Haider, former ASI Naushad, Ajmal Pahari were still at large.

Nevertheless, the police with the arrest of the MQM's Burns Road sector-in-charge, Shakir Langra, which was preceded with the recovery of arms which, according to the police, were used in the killing, in a nullah at Burns Road, now finds the case fit to be sent to a military court in the near future.

The other significant murders during 1998 were included those of secondary board chairman Ismail Memon, former MNA Zuhair Akram Nadeem and Sunni Tehreek leader Maulana Waheed Qadri. According to police claims, those who have committed the murders belong to Muttahida Qaumi Movement.

Hiroshima

KARACHI, Dec 31: An exhibition of photographs of the destruction wrought by atomic weapons on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki will be held on Friday at the PMA House at 3.30pm.

City to get 30 mgd more water from today

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI, Dec 31: The city will start getting the remaining 30 mgd of water per day of the K-2 (Karachi Water Supply Scheme) project from Friday morning.

Pumping of additional 30 mgd of water began at Dhabeji pumping station on Thursday and it would enter the city's existing water system some time after Thursday midnight.

"After getting the additional 30 mgd of water, the KWSB will be able to help solve the problem of water deficit areas", said KWSB chief engineer Misbahuddin Fareed.

Asked which parts of the city would be benefited with the additional water, the KWSB official said the water would be used to enhance the quota of various parts of the city which also include North Karachi.

Moreover, after the completion of the interconnection work currently being undertaken at Manghopir Road, near Asbestos factory, a reasonable quantity of water from the additional 30 mgd will be diverted to Orangi and Baldia Town through the newly- set up pumping station of North-East Karachi (NEK) pumping station.

The interconnection work which is being jointly carried out by the officials of army's engineering corps and the KWSB is expected to be completed in the next 48 hours.

The Army's engineering corps' commanding officer, Brig Ghazali and the KWSB's managing director Brig Mansoor Ahmed in coordination with each other were nowadays supervising the interconnection works which are aimed at meeting the water needs of the areas hooked to Hub dam source when water supply from the source would come to an end.

Meanwhile, power failures of longer duration at the KWSB's pumping stations continued to affect the water supply situation in different parts of the city on the third consecutive day on Thursday.

The KWSB attributed the current water shortage in some localities to less supply of water from the Hub dam source as well as to frequent power failures taking place at various KWSB pumping stations for the last three days.

DELISTED: The KWSB has delisted five hospitals from its panel reportedly on administrative grounds.

The hospitals which have been delisted from the KWSB panel include Siddiqui General Hospital, Highway Hospital, Sindh Medical Centre, Naseema Maternity Home and General Hospital and Yasar Medical Centre.

Meanwhile, the KWSB's People's Labour Union's general secretary, Mohsin Raza, while lauding the KWSB MD's decision, has urged him to inquire whether the Rs 350 million paid to these hospitals in a short span of merely three months (from Aug 1998 to Nov 1998) was justified and if not action should be initiated against the concerned KWSB officials responsible for paying such a huge amount to the hospitals.

WATER CRISIS: Different parts of the city, including Khokhrapar, Gulshan-i-Iqbal block 4-A and parts of Korangi, have been facing water crisis for the last several months.

Residents of Saudia Colony (Khokharapar) said their locality had been facing water crisis because dozens of illegal connections have been taken by the residents of G and H areas.

GOVERNOR: Governor Moin Uddin Haider has ordered immediate implementation of supply of additional 25 million gallons water daily to Karachi and upgradation of North-East Karachi Pump House, adds APP.

He directed that the project be completed as per the fixed target by March 1, 1999.

The 25 mgd Khawaja Ajmer Nagri pump house project will be constructed in district central and these would help improve water supply situation in Central and West Districts.

At a meeting held at the Governor House, the Commander Corps Engineer 5-Corp, Brig Asif Ghazali briefed the Governor about the project details.

The project costing Rs 670 million was approved by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif during his last visit to Karachi.

The meeting was told that Army Engineers of 5-Corp will supervise the project in coordination with KWSB staff.

The governor issued directive to chief secretary for immediate release of Rs 10 million for expeditious implementation of the project.

He also issued directive for initiation of steps to check water wastage and to buildup public awareness about it. He also stressed the need for working on plans for supply of drinking water to desert areas of the province.

The governor was informed that leftover supply of 30 mgd of water out of 100 MGD K-2 project, which could not be supplied because of technical hitch, will commence on Thursday.

KESC's loadshedding continues

By Our Reporter

KARACHI, Dec 31: There was no respite from loadshedding for Karachiites on the last day of the year as the KESC was unable to generate the require energy and WAPDA did not provide the back-up support despite minister Gohar Ayub's assurances.

Loadshedding was carried out in various parts of the city in the morning owing to lack of sufficient generation. Around 5.10pm the KESC shed 86mw in the industrial and 38mw in the residential areas. By 7pm the loadshedding increased to the tune of 146mw in the industrial areas. Residential consumers were subjected to 58mw of loadshedding.

A spokesman for the KESC said there was no backup support from WAPDA though the federal minister for water and power had said that WAPDA had been directed to provide at least 100mw to the KESC.

The duration of loadshedding in various parts of the city varied between two and three hours in the morning and again in the evening.

The KESC could not promise when the ordeal would be over.

CORPS COMMANDER: Corps Commander Lt Gen Muzaffar Hussain Usmani has directed the Karachi Electric Supply Corporation to accelerate the process of recovery of its outstanding dues and initiate effective measures to improve the internal working also, adds APP.

He issued the directive at a briefing by the advisor for Implementation, Brig Khurshid Alam, held to apprise him about the KESC's working with special reference to outstanding dues and their recovery.

He was informed that a special recovery drive had been launched simultaneously in the KESC's all the 20 billing zones duly reinforced by army, police and security personnel to conduct raids against defaulters.

Meanwhile, the KESC has requested the consumers to clear their dues without any delay to avoid embarrassment and action as per new the ordinance.

The KESC said that all possible concession would be given to those who voluntarily came out for payment.

It said if a premises was once raided, the dues would be recovered in lump sum and no concession in payment would be allowed besides legal punitive actions.

1,900 armed hold-ups

Dacoits remain unbridled, violent during the year

By Tahir Siddiqui

KARACHI, Dec 31: Dacoits and muggers remained unbridled during 1998 as the cases of armed hold-ups shot up to around 1,900 from 1,409 in the previous year.

These hold-ups included more than 750 house robberies in which gangs of bandits not only took away cash, jewellery, prize bonds and valuables, but also killed and wounded scores of their victims, including several elderly men and women and some policemen.

In many cases, the victims, both men and women, were manhandled and beaten up with the butts of guns.

The most terrible house robbery of the year was committed in Surjani Town in which five of a family — a 60-year-old woman, her three young daughters and a son — were shot dead by unknown intruders. The police have yet to detect the case.

In another violent house robbery in Defence, a gang of dacoits killed three brothers in the presence of their elderly father. The police, however, succeeded in detecting the case as one of the dacoits had also been killed by his accomplices during the firing on the inmates. But, the main accused in this case were not reported to have been arrested so far.

Moreover, in several house robberies, dacoits also molested young women, though the victims did not report the incidents to police. In Gulshan-i-Iqbal at least three such incidents occurred within two weeks in June.

According to one of the victims, who did not wish to be identified, a gang of four dacoits, all in their mid and late twenties, stormed into the house in the small hours of the morning, held the inmates hostage at gunpoint and then locked them into a room. The intruders after scooping every thing of their interest from the house took the 20-year-old girl in another room and two of them did what the victim termed was the most disgusting and terrible experience of the life for her.

Though the violent robberies were reported from almost every locality, the entire city remained at the mercy of robbers during 1998, the worst-hit were localities of the Central district and the affluent localities of the South district.

In most of the house dacoities, the robbers mainly looted cash, prize bonds and jewellery as the disposal of other looted articles, such as electronic home appliances and other valuables, is a bit difficult for them.

Besides, a very large number of dacoits' victims did not lodge FIRs with the police who normally discourage a victim to get registered the case in a bid to "maintain the record of respective police station".

In many incidents of the armed hold-ups, the police reportedly registered cases under the sections that pertains to stealing and theft, thus minimising the gravity of the crime and giving intentional or unintentional favour to the culprits.

According to police sources, a large number of the dacoits' gangs operating in Karachi did not belong to the city. Most of them hailed either from parts of the interior of Sindh or upcountry.

The police sources said these gangs were operating on an inter-provincial level and suspended their activities for a month or so after striking at two or three places. They normally left the city after committing some big robberies, they said.

Besides, several other gangs of illegal immigrants are operating in the city under the very nose of police.

Moreover, some of the gangs busted by the police during the year comprised police personnel of lower ranks.

The incidents of mugging were also reported to have increased during 1998. It is widely thought that the most of the muggers operate with the connivance of police.

Similarly, cases of shop robberies and dacoities also swelled to over 250 from 151 in 1997. At least 10 bank branches and 11 petrol stations were looted this year. Last year six banks and 12 petrol pumps had been looted.

BLASTS: As many as a dozen people were killed and over 90 others, including women and children, wounded in 15 bomb blasts during 1998.

In all the explosion, the terrorists had used locally assembled devices equipped with a 15-minute timers.

KU academic year begins today

KARACHI, Dec 31: New academic year of the university of Karachi is commencing on Jan 1 after a semester break of one month, university officials said here on Thursday.

The first day of academic year 1998-99 will be observed as "orientation day", and orientation classes will be held in all departments to acquaint the new-comers with the pattern of study.

According to the chairman of admission committee, Dr Ishaq, almost 5,096 students had been given admissions in 43 departments of the university this year, of which 3,446 in honours classes and 1,650 in masters classes.

This year, he said, the university had given excessive admissions to the honours classes because of a gap between the schedules of entrance test for medical colleges and admissions to Karachi university.

"We have admitted 3,446 students in honours the classes as against the total seats of 2,500. Only in B-Pharmacy, 52 students have been given admissions against the 200 seats", Ishaq added.

This, he said, had been done because of a long gap between the schedule of entrance test, and university admissions, a number of students of pre-medical group securing A, and A-one grades had got admissions to various university departments.

Two new departments had been introduced in 1998 — Bachelor in Business Administration (BBA), and Bachelor in Public Administration (BPA) — raising the total strength of the departments to 44.

Ishaq said that 50 admissions had been given in the BPA, while 50 admissions will also be provided in BBA soon. The department of Industrial Arts and Visual Designs would soon be started, he added. — PPI

Notice issued on Arts Council plea

KARACHI, Dec 31: A division bench of Sindh High Court on Thursday issued notices for Jan 4 to Commissioner of Karachi and others on a petition filed by Tahir A. Khan, Ibrahim Nafees and other office-bearers of the Arts Council.

The petitioners challenged a letter of the commissioner, in which he claimed that there were many irregularities in the Art Council and a number of complaints were being received.

Through the letter, the commissioner also stopped the Arts Council from holding elections, set for Dec 26.

In the petition, the office-bearers requested the court to declare the impugned letter of the commissioner as illegal.

They sought fixing of the next date for holding the election of the Arts Council under the supervision of an official assignee of Sindh High Court. — PPI

HBL announces new pay package

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI, Dec 31: The Habib Bank on Thursday announced the new pay package for 22,000 clerical, non-clerical, officers and executives.

The Habib Bank management issued the circular of revised pay package on Thursday after more than a fortnight of talks with representatives of various trade unions and associations — the Habib Bank Employees Federation, Habib Bank Workers Front of Pakistan, Habib Bank Officers Welfare Association, Habib Bank Officers Federation Pakistan and the Executive Association of Habib Bank.

Announcing the new pay package, the bank said it had already granted a cost of living increase from Jan 1, 1998, amounting to 120 per cent of the basic pay for clerical staff, 130 per cent of basic pay for non-clerical staff, 100 per cent of basic pay for officers and 90 per cent of basic pay for executives.

The bank's revised pay package for 10,848 clerical and non-clerical employees has been achieved following a memorandum of agreement signed between the Habib Bank management and the Habib Bank Employees Federation of Pakistan representing 44 collective bargaining agents on Dec 19.

As a result of the memorandum, the bank claimed that the revised pay package had doubled the basic pay of the clerical and non-clerical employees from Grade 1-7 (totalling Rs2,575 to Rs4,825) by merging basic pay, house rent allowance, ad hoc increase, cost of living allowance, washing allowance, monthly medical expenses and conveyance allowance.

It further announced that it had decided to give across the board increase at the rate of 12.5 per cent of revised basic pay effective from Jan 1, 1999. Pay increases to be given next year would be "strictly on the basis of performance".

In addition, the bank announced an increase in house rent allowance, utilities allowance, medical allowance and medical ceiling for consultation/hospitalisation.

The secretary-general of the Employees Federation, Mohammed Ali Memon, whose federation was a signatory to the memorandum, said the 12.5 per cent revised increase in basic, coupled with other benefits would give the clerical and non-clerical employees about 20-25 per cent increase in pay in 1999.

The Habib Bank Workers Front Pakistan, led by Habibuddin Junaidi, however described the memorandum as a "poor agreement", which would not increase the take home salary for clerical and non-clerical workers.

At the same time, the Habib Bank issued the revised pay scales for officers and executives, showing their basic pay had more than doubled through the merging of basic pay, special pay, house rent, conveyance allowance, maintenance allowance, ad hoc increase, cost of living allowance, utility allowance, entertainment expenses, telephone bills, servant salaries, garden expenses and medical expenses.

However, the general secretary of the Executive Association of Habib Bank, Abdul Wahab, said that "the revised pay package was not a new package and had merely adjusted interim relief given to employees earlier this year".

He maintained that the package had failed to account for the rapid inflation which occurred this year.

PPI MD retires

KARACHI, Dec 31: Fazal Qureshi, managing director and chief editor of PPI, is due to retire from PPI with effect from Jan 1 after an association of 41 years with the organization, 21 years as managing director.

The management and staff members of PPI gave a farewell reception for Mr Qureshi on Wednesday at PPI Karachi office. Owais Aslam Ali, chairman of PPI, and other senior colleagues paid glowing tributes to him for his contribution to making PPI a truly independent national news agency.

Mr Qureshi joined PPI as a correspondent when it was founded by Muazzam Ali in 1958. He worked in different positions, including those of chief reporter and chief news editor, and was appointed managing director and chief editor in 1977.

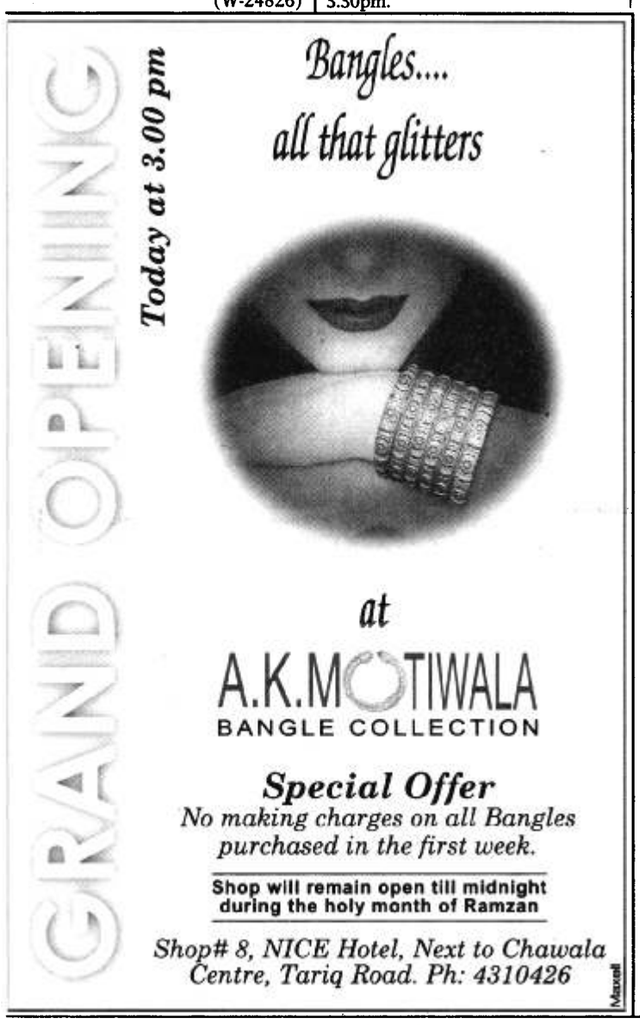
He worked as foreign correspondent for PPI in Beirut, Baghdad, Cairo and London for many years. In Pakistan he also worked as correspondent for The Times, London, The Economist and Asiaweek. Since 1966 he had been a correspondent for Newsweek, a job he still hold.

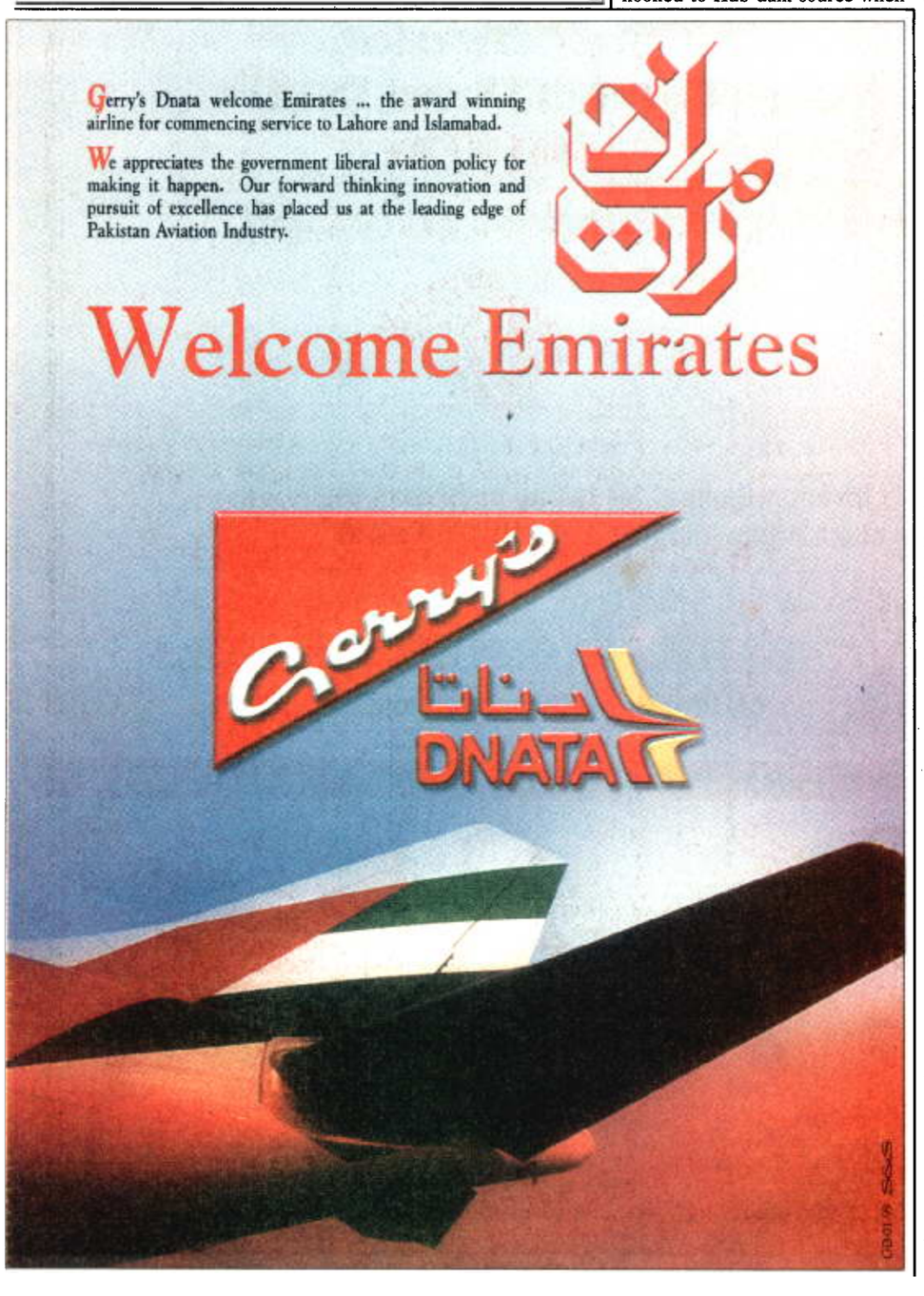
MA exam results

KARACHI, Dec 31: Karachi University announced on Thursday the seat numbers of those candidates who passed their M.A. (previous) External Annual Examinations 1997, said a notification.

The results of 23 candidates were withheld for using unfair means during the examination.

Marks certificates have been posted to the external candidates at their mailing addresses.


GRAND OPENING
Today at 3.00 pm
Bangles....
all that glitters
at
A.K.MOTIWALA
BANGLE COLLECTION
Special Offer
No making charges on all Bangles purchased in the first week.
Shop will remain open till midnight during the holy month of Ramzan
Shop# 8, NICE Hotel, Next to Chawala Centre, Tariq Road. Ph: 4310426


Gerry's Dnata welcome Emirates ... the award winning airline for commencing service to Lahore and Islamabad.
We appreciates the government liberal aviation policy for making it happen. Our forward thinking innovation and pursuit of excellence has placed us at the leading edge of Pakistan Aviation Industry.
Welcome Emirates
Gerry's
DNATA

QURAN KHWANI

for
Hameed Zuberi(Chand Mian)
who expired in Ottawa, Canada

between Zohar & Asr
today, 1.1.99 at GF-2, Block 12-B, Seaview Apartments, Defence.

Rashid Zuberi *(Abid)*
Res: 5848157 Off: 4524921

IN MEMORIAM:

To a sincere and wonderful friend who wished me well, Mirza Abdul Majeed, former Administrator of K.M.C. and Regional Commissioner of Income. Late Majeed saheb passed away in Karachi, eleven years ago, on January 1, 1988. He was reposed to eternal rest, in the open and green countryside of his family burial ground at Gujar Khan. May Allah through the revered hands of our patron saint for answered prayers: the Alumdar (Flag bearer) of Karbala: Prince of Princes: Ghazi Maula Hazrat Abbas (peace be upon him) lead Majeed saheb in eternal Paradise. *"Oh believers, Fasting is ordained upon you. Fasting was prescribed for the ones before you. Fasting is to guard against evil."* Holy Quran: Chapter 2, Verse 183.

For the soul of Majeed saheb, please recite al Fa'thea (Lord's prayer).

Mohammed Aziz Haji Dossa